

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A chain saw bar tensioning apparatus comprising:

a sliding member having a recess formed therein and adjacent to a first tensioning member, wherein the first tensioning member biases the sliding member in a direction such that when the apparatus is incorporated into a chain saw bar and mounted to a chain saw having a mounting stud projecting from a housing of the chain saw, the sliding member is biased towards the mounting stud; and

a latch adjacent to a second tensioning member, wherein the recess of the sliding member is configured to receive the latch, and wherein the second tensioning member biases the latch towards the sliding member such that when the sliding member is forced in a direction away from the mounting stud the latch will eventually enter the recess and prevent the sliding member from moving towards the mounting stud.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sliding member has a plurality of recesses formed therein that enable the sliding member to be ratcheted away from the mounting stud in a step-like fashion.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first tensioning member and the second tensioning member comprise springs.

4. (currently amended) A chain saw comprising:

a chain saw bar mounted to a housing of the chain saw via at least one mounting stud that projects from the housing, the chain saw bar comprising

a sliding member having a recess formed therein and adjacent to a first tensioning member, wherein the first tensioning member biases the sliding member towards the mounting stud; and

a latch adjacent to a second tensioning member, wherein the recess of the sliding member is configured to receive the latch, and wherein the second tensioning member biases the latch towards the sliding member such that when the sliding member is forced in a

direction away from the mounting stud the latch will eventually enter the recess and prevent the sliding member from moving towards the mounting stud.

5. (currently amended) A chain saw bar tensioning apparatus comprising:

a sliding member having a recess formed therein and adjacent to a means for biasing the sliding member, wherein the means for biasing the sliding member biases the sliding member in a direction such that when the apparatus is incorporated into a chain saw bar and mounted to a chain saw having a mounting stud projecting from a housing of the chain saw, the sliding member is biased towards the mounting stud; and

a latch adjacent to a means for biasing the latch, wherein the recess of the sliding member is configured to receive the latch, and wherein the means for biasing the latch biases the latch towards the sliding member such that when the sliding member is forced in a direction away from the mounting stud the latch will eventually enter the recess and prevent the sliding member from moving towards the mounting stud.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the sliding member has a plurality of recesses formed therein that enable the sliding member to be ratcheted away from the mounting stud in a step-like fashion.